

would have to be overcome in order for a military aircraft to be approved for use on a civilian medivac mission. The desk sergeant quickly transferred my call to the duty officer. My first comment to the Major was to apologize for my sense of urgency, but a child's life was on the line. Simply stated, I ask if his M.A.S.T. Helicopter could be airborne in five minutes or less for a medivac flight. His response was brief and very direct. "It will take me at least thirty minutes to find someone who is capable of giving authorization." I thanked him for his time, and hung up the phone.

I realized at that point we were out of options. One of my staff members, feeling helpless said "why don't you call the Coast Guard, I know they have a helicopter." With nothing but the cost of a phone call to lose, I called the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah Georgia. Once again, I explained the urgency of my request. This time, however, the response was different. Within five minutes, USCG 6573 was airborne and enroute to the Statesboro Municipal Airport. To make a long story short, the Coast Guard answered the call for help when no one else was available. The medivac mission was carried out without a hitch. Our every request was quickly accommodated.

Everyone involved, from the pilots and air crew to the individuals operating the telephone played an extremely crucial role in the critical care transport of Stacie Martin. At this point in time, I am not certain about Stacie's outcome because of the extent and severity of her injuries. One thing that I certainly know, is the role played by All Coast Guard Personnel involved will be credited with every positive milestone that Stacie overcomes on her long road to recovery.

For four years, stationed at USCG GROUP CHARLESTON, being a SAR small boat coxswain, the Coast Guard Motto, *Semper Paratus*, seldom took on a very significant meaning. However, on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, being "Always ready" had a much greater meaning than each and every day of my brief Coast Guard career. On that Wednesday, it seemed that the bureaucracy worked against Stacie, until Coast Guard assistance was requested. No bureaucracy, no delay, no excuses, simply immediate response, few questions, and extraordinary execution of duty and responsibility by all USCG personnel involved. I have always been proud of the many roles that I was involved in while a member of the Coast Guard, but never as impressed as I was on Wednesday the 25th.

I realize how truly insignificant our language and my own vocabulary really is when trying to express my sincere Gratitude and Thanks to everybody at the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah, and to the personnel at the District Office in Miami. This is truly a case of one of the most outstanding humanitarian missions ever undertaken by my former branch of service.

There were probably many people who were involved whose names I did not have a chance to document, but those names I do have are as follows: Captain Clark, OSR Miami; Captain Thomas W. Sechler, OIC, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah; Lieutenant Richard Craig, Pilot; Lieutenant Thomas Gaffney, Pilot; Glenn Boggs, ADI; William (Bill) DeCamp, ASM2; Lieutenant Pat Ryan; Rob Jerger, AM3; and Mike Forchette, AE1.

I know these people and all others involved in this mission were only doing their job, but, speaking in behalf of the family of Stacie Martin, the Bulloch County Department of Public Safety, Bulloch County EMS/RESCUE, and our entire community, I wish again to express a very heartfelt thanks. The entire United States Coast Guard came through in our time of need. It was truly an answered prayer.

I know we at EMS/RESCUE in Bulloch County will never be able to repay all those involved, but, if you ever have any need here in our community, please don't hesitate to call.

Very sincerely,

LEE ECKLES,
Director.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 83 RELATIVE TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SHAW and Mr. STEARNS, in introducing a resolution to double the investment in medical research at the National Institutes of Health over the next 5 years. I want to set forth the reasons why the investment in biomedical research has provided major benefits to our people.

The National Institutes of Health is the engine that drives medical research for our Nation and the world. Scientists funded by the NIH have produced a steady flow of discoveries leading to the prevention and treatment of many devastating diseases; their efforts are leveraged when their research leads privately funded U.S. researchers and researchers outside the United States to follow a lead. The congressional biomedical caucus, which I proudly Co-Chair with Representatives NANCY PELOSI, SONNY CALLAHAN, and JOSEPH KENNEDY, has brought some of this country's finest scientists to Congress to describe the amazing stories of how NIH funding has armed U.S. researchers as they lead the battle to successfully discover the causes of cancer, heart conditions, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS and other conditions which devastate millions of American families. Whether it is the recent discovery of genetic causes of some breast cancers, the development of Protease inhibitor treatment of AIDS, or the completion, which is within our grasp, of the map of all human genes; every day we hear of exciting advances in medical research which were made possible by the National Institutes of Health. I have sought advice and leadership from the five scientific societies which compose the Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy [JSC]: American Society for Cell Biology, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biophysical Society, Genetics Society of America, American Association of Anatomists and the Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairpersons. I appreciate the quality and new information that the caucus briefings present under the leadership of Dr. J. Michael Bishop, University of California, San Francisco. I look forward to working with the JSC Chair Dr. Eric Lander, Director of the Whitehead Institute, Genome Center at MIT; Dr. Marc Kirschner, Chairman of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Tom Pollard, President of the Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, to make this resolution a reality.

But this Nation's investment in the NIH is justified not just to relieve human suffering, but also to contribute to the national economy, and, in the long run, help reduce our deficit. As the world leader in biomedical research,

some 50,000 scientists in 1,700 institutions throughout the country received NIH funding. It is estimated that NIH funding leads to an annual contribution to the U.S. economy of \$44.6 billion in sales, \$17.9 billion in salaries and 726,000 jobs. Our country's leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are dependent upon the research findings of NIH-funded research.

Spectacular savings are affected by singular breakthroughs: Newborn screening and treatment for hypothyroidism now prevents lifelong mental retardation for thousands of people and saves \$200 to \$400 million per year; lithium treatment for bi-polar disorder has saved an astounding \$145 billion in hospitalization costs since its introduction in the seventies. And it is estimated that delaying the onset of Alzheimer's disease by just 1 year would save \$5 billion annually.

There is no shortcut to curing disease: Only the accumulated efforts of thousands of scientists, predominately funded by the National Institutes of Health, can and will result in the realization of the promise to prevent and cure disease.

MUSIC EDUCATION: NEBRASKA LEADS THE WAY

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I've been asked by the Nebraska Music Educators Association to share some important news with my colleagues.

According to the association, Nebraska is implementing national standards in the visual and performing arts through the design and implementation of the Nebraska K-12 curriculum frameworks in the visual and performing arts, a project funded by the Secretary of Education's education innovation fund.

It is important our youth have a good understanding of the arts and music. I well remember growing up in Lexington, NE, where my music teachers helped instill in me a fond appreciation for music. Because of their tutelage and my parents insistence, I was able to turn my piano and trombone lessons into a job with a jazz band that helped pay my way through college. Because of music, I have developed lifelong friends and savor the memories of events on the road with the band.

There is one particular event that comes to mind. One day our jazz band was traveling in southern Kansas and we stopped to have lunch at a roadside diner. The owner of the diner informed us he wouldn't serve a black member of our band. We walked out of the diner in protest. This was my first experience in seeing racial discrimination in practice, and it made me realize that a vast segment of our population was being treated as second-class citizens. It was heartening to see later that same day people coming to the nightclub who didn't care if a member of our band was black. The music broke through racial prejudices.

Ideally, music appreciation should start at an early age and ought to be encouraged by parents. I'm pleased to see that Nebraska music and art educators are working hard to provide our youth with opportunities to learn—not just about musical scores and art technics,